

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1534

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUCHAREST 6402

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SUBJECT: NIMETZ VISIT: BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 6371

1. SUMMARY. MEETING WITH MFA MINISTER-STATE SECRETARY ILIE RADULESCU AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS SEPTEMBER 8 PROVIDED MAJOR FOCUS FOR DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP DURING NIMETZ VISIT. IN CONTEXT OF US FOLLOW-UP TO CEAUSESCU VISIT AND PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, COUNSELOR REVIEWED STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN SINCE APRIL AND ARE CONTEMPLATING NOW, INCLUDING TRIGA FUEL AND ROMCONTROL DATA DISC DRIVE DECISIONS; HE ALSO NOTED AREAS WHERE GOR HAS MOVED FORWARD AND/OR COULD MOVE FURTHER. RADULESCU SITUATED UPBEAT, ONWARD-AND-UPWARD PRESENTATION SQUARELY IN CONTEXT OF POLICY CEAUSESCU HAD ENGINEERED HIMSELF AND IMPLEMENTED TOGETHER WITH US PRESIDENTS, AND OF "VERY DEFINITE" AGREEMENTS REACHED IN APRIL, WITH FAMILIAR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC ITEMS, BUT ALSO MENTIONING CARTER VISIT AND MULTI-YEAR MFN. ROMANIAN TENDENCY TO WORK OUT OF MATRIX CREATED BY CEAUSESCU HIMSELF AND GIVEN PRESENT SHAPE BY PURPORTED "AGREEMENTS" REACHED IN APRIL POINTS UP VALUE OF IDENTIFYING AND MOVING ON SOLUTIONS TO CONCRETE PROBLEMS. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ON NEW ISSUES RAISED BY GOR, AND CONTINUE TO SUGGEST INITIATIVES WHICH SEEM BOTH FEASIBLE
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AND IN MUTUAL INTEREST. POLICY-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS, BEGINNING WITH ANDREI VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS MONTH, COME FIRST TO MIND. END SUMMARY.

2. PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES DURING DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ' VISIT TOOK PLACE IN TWO-HOUR SESSION AT MFA WITH MINISTER-STATE SECRETARY ILIE

RADULESCU AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH US RELATIONS.

3. IN CONTEXT OF US FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO CARTER/CEAUSESCU MEETING IN APRIL AND PERSONAL INTEREST OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IN US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, NIMETZ LISTED FOLLOWING:

- APPROVAL OF 119 EXPORT CONTROL CASES
- EXIM LOAN OF \$7 MILLION
- A ROMANIAN FISHING ALLOTMENT FOR LAST QUARTER OF 1978
- CCC CREDIT OF \$110 MILLION FOR FEED GRAINS.

COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED WITH APPROVAL FAVORABLE GOR ACTION ON DECREE 223 PROPERTY CASES, THE EXCELLENT ACCESS OF EMBASSY AND OFFICIAL US VISITORS TO SENIOR GOR OFFICIALS, AND RESOLUTION OF MANY FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERLINED THAT THERE IS STILL GREAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN EMIGRATION ISSUES.

4. ON PENDING QUESTIONS, NIMETZ LISTED:

- CONTINUED US EFFORTS TO REDUCE EXPORT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.
 - FUEL LICENSE FOR TRIGA NUCLEAR REACTOR, ON WHICH WE EXPECT FAVORABLE ACTION SOON. HE ADDED THAT CHANCES FOR QUICK ACTION WOULD BE ENHANCED IF GOR FILED A FACILITY ATTACHMENT STATEMENT WITH IAEA, THEREBY MEETING SOME OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION CONCERNS. WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIRECTOR
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BOGDAN, AFTER CONSULTING HIS FILES, SUBSEQUENTLY CITED A REPLY FROM ROMANIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION CLAIMING IT HAD DONE ITS PART BUT THAT GENERAL ATOMIC COMPANY HAD FAILED IN ITS OBLIGATION TO SEND IAEA A LETTER ON THE FUEL, AND SPECULATED THAT COMPANY DOES NOT ACTUALLY HAVE THE FUEL READY AND IS BUILDING A CASE TO PLEAD FORCE MAJURE. BOGDAN SAID THIS QUESTION WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN WASHINGTON BY ROMANIAN EMBASSY.

--TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, WHERE US IS AWAITING FAVORABLE ACTION BY COCOM.

--NSF AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE A NEW MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING, WHERE HOWEVER IT IS INCUMBENT UPON GOR TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN THEREIN.

--PENDING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR SOME ROMANIAN PARTICIPANTS IN CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, FOR WHICH WE HOPE EARLY APPROVAL WILL BE GRANTED.

--PENDING ROMOCONTROL DATA-CDC EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, WHERE USG IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO ATTACH 60 MEGABYTE DRIVES TO ROMANIAN COMPUTERS AND SALES OF SAME DISC DRIVES OUTSIDE ROMANIA TO BE FITTED TO COMPUTERS NOT LARGER THAN FELIX C-512 (SEE STATE 227286).

5. RADULESCU'S KEYNOTE PRESENTATION WAS MEASURED BUT GENERALLY

UPBEAT REAFFIRMATION OF ROMANIAN DESIRE TO PROCEED IN
RELATIONS WITH US. MFA SEES TALKS AS EXPRESSION OF GOOD AND
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH ARE MOVING UPWARD.
GOR AND PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU PERSONALLY PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
RELATIONS WITH US. THERE IS SATISFACTION THAT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU
HAS INAUGURATED A NEW ERA IN OUR RELATIONS. HE PERSONALLY CONCEIVED
AND IMPLEMENTED IT, TOGETHER WITH US
PRESIDENTS, AND IT HAS OVERCOME OLD STATE WHICH DID NOT
CORRESPOND TO INTERESTS OF TWO COUNTRIES. ROMANIAN AID WISHES
TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT BEGUN BY FOUR CEAUSESCU VISITS TO US AND
VISITS OF TWO US PRESIDENTS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BUCHAREST 6402

TO ROMANIA. 1973 JOINT DECLARATION, REAFFIRMED IN 1978, PROVIDES
POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL BASIS FOR AMPLIFYING RELATIONSHIP.

6. JOINT DECLARATION EXPRESSES DESIRE TO CONTINUE AND
ENSURE COMMITTED IMPLEMENTATION OF VERY DEFINITE TERMS
OF AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING VISIT, RADULESCU WENT ON.
IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT ROMANIANS APPRECIATED VISITS
BY BERGLAND, HARRIMAN, VEST, YOUNG AND OTHER PERSONALITIES
RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FOR TALKS ON BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES. IT IS IN INTEREST OF TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES TO CONTINUE
AND EXPAND ON WHAT WAS AGREED, IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC,
CULTURAL AND OF COURSE CONSULAR FIELDS. AMBASSADOR AGGREY AND
EMBASSY WERE WORKING HARD TO FIND AND PUT INTO PRACTICE SOLUTIONS
TO PROBLEMS RAISED BY DEPARTMENT OR OTHER US AGENCIES, AND MFA
AND DEPARTMENT CAN DO MUCH MORE, FOR INSTANCE IN PREPARING VISIT
OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO ROMANIA, WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE ONE OF MOST
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN HISTORY OF RELATIONSHIP.

7. RADULESCU NOTED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS UNDERPINNING GENERAL
PRESENTATION:

--SOLUTION OF DECREE 223 PROPERTY CASES IS EXAMPLE OF CEAUSESCU'S
POSITIVE INTEREST, BUT HE ASKED AGAIN THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT NOT BE

PUBLICIZED.

--HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ANALYZED AND SOLVED ON BASIS OF ROMANIAN LAW, GOR'S HUMANITARIAN POLICIES, AND DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES.

--HIGH LEVEL VISITS, PARTICULARLY OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO ROMANIA
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AND GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (GNA) DELEGATION TO UNITED STATES, SHOULD CONTINUE AS WELL AS MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT UNGA AND BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON A VARIETY OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES; MFA WILL HAVE PROPOSALS TO MAKE, AND "WE ALSO AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSALS."

--MEDIA OF BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD REFLECT THE GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS BY PROVIDING OBJECTIVE COVERAGE OF EVENTS AND SHOULD SEEK TO STIMULATE EVEN BETTER RELATIONS. (COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THIS AS THE MANDATORY DIG AT RFE.)

--TRADE SHOULD GROW EVEN MORE; DURRENT YEAR FIGURES ARE RUNNING AT \$700-800 MILLION RATE, BUT CURRENT EIGHTH PLACE FOR US IN ROMANIA'S TRADE IS TOO LOW, ESPECIALLY IF GOAL OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS TOTAL TRADE BY 1980 IS TO BE ACHIEVED. STATE DEPARTMENT CAN HELP WITH SUCH PROBLEMS AS EXPORT LICENSES AND PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES.

--MFN EXTENSION IS APPRECIATED, BUT BOTH MINISTERS NEED TO IMPLEMENT DECISION OF TWO PRESIDENTS TO MOVE TOWARD A LONGER PERIOD OF EXTENSION, PERHAPS TO COINCIDE WITH TRADE AGREEMENT.

--US FEAR THAT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COULD REACH SOVIET UNION VIA ROMANIA IS UNFOUNDED SINCE, AS CEAUSESCU MOST RECENTLY UNDERLINED SEPTEMBER 7 (BUCHAREST 6365), ROMANIAN INDEPENDENCE IS NOT FOR SALE; ROMANIA'S RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON ARE DIRECT AND DO NO PASS THROUGH ANY OTHER CAPITAL. IN THIS CONNECTION, ROMANIA MUST DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THOSE US SENATORS AND OTHERS WHO STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ROMANIAN POLICY, AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT HELP IN THIS TASK.

--RECENT MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL WAS HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING MANY CONTACTS ON POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES, BUT US GOVERNMENT CAN HELP FINALIZE AGREEMENTS.

--PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS BETWEEN US AND ROMANIA REMAINS; GOR HAS THOUGHT OF SOME SUGGESTIONS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND LATIN
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AMERICA, BUT USG'S HELP IS NEEDED TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS.

--BOTH SIDES ARE STILL FAR FROM ACHIEVING GOAL OF COOPERATION IN THIRD MARKETS, AND DEPARTMENT'S HELP IS NEEDED.

--MORE GENERALLY, BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER SO AS NOT

TO CREATE TRADE OBSTACLES; THIS APPLIES, FOR INSTANCE, TO ROMANIA'S TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

--CULTURAL EXCHANGES ARE PROCEEDING WELL AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM IS NOW "ON A GOOD ROAD." ROMANIA MUST STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN DOMESTIC DEMANDS AND FOREIGN PROGRAMS FOR BADLY NEEDED AND EXTREMELY BUSY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, BUT SUCH PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME.

8. IN RESPONSE, NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT GENERAL LINE OF GOR THINKING IS VERY SIMILAR TO OURS IN SPITE OF DIFFERENT SYSTEMS AND INEVITABLE PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE THEREFROM. IT IS A CHALLENGE TO BOTH SIDES TO MAKE THE RELATIONSHIP WORK. HE STRESSED AGAIN US INTEREST IN CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL VISITS AND IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON CSCE. HE NOTED GOR INTEREST IN MULTI-YEAR MFN, OUTLINED PROBLEMS OF TIMING AND OPENING UP OF TRADE ACT FOR AMENDMENT, BUT PROMISED THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO STUDY THE QUESTION. HE ALSO AGREED TO LOOK INTO RADULESCU'S COMMENTS ON OTHER ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE, WITH GOAL OF ADVANCING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP ON ALL LEVELS.

9. COMMENT. DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP DURING VISIT WAS MARKED BY WILLINGNESS ON BOTH SIDES TO MOVE FORWARD, BOTH IN GENERAL AND RE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. ONLY POTENTIAL HOOKER DISCERNIBLE IN THESE MEETINGS WAS RADULESCU'S FIRM ANCHORING OF STATUS AND PROSPECTS IN POLITICAL MATRIX ENGINEERED BY CEAUSESCU PERSONALLY AND FILLED BY "VERY DEFINITE" AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING APRIL VISIT TO US. ROMANIAN TENDENCY, CONSEQUENTLY, WILL BE TO REFER TO TOPICS DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON -- SUCH AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, OR MULTI-YEAR MFN, AS IN SEPTEMBER 8 TALKS -- AS OBJECTS OF BILATERAL "AGREEMENT" ON WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS IS IN SOME SENSE CONDITIONAL. WHETHER OR NOT WE ACCEPT THIS INTERPRETATION, FACT THAT ROMANIANS DO POINTS UP VALUE OF CONTINU-
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ING EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AND MOVE FORWARD ON AS MANY CONCRETE PROBLEMS AS WE CAN. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP RE SUCH "EXOTICA" AS TRANSPORTATION AND LATIN AMERICAN TRADE, TO SEE WHAT ROMANIANS HAVE IN MIND, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUGGEST TOPICS WHERE NEW INITIATIVES ON OUR PART APPEAR TO BE BOTH FEASIBLE AND IN MUTUAL INTEREST. POLICY-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, BEGINNING WITH ANDREI VISIT TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH AND PROCEEDING TO CSCE, IS ONE OF FIRST THAT COMES TO MIND.
AGGREY

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